

MARCH 8, 2016

TO: CT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WE ARE WRITING THIS LETTER IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 5583

WE ARE LAND OWNERS ON BASHAN LAKE IN EAST HADDAM. WE HAVE BEEN THERE FOR 11 YEARS AND MOST RECENTLY HAVE WITNESSED THE DEVASTATION OF THE THE LAKE BY THE STATES PROJECT TO REPLACE THE DAM.

WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE NEED FOR THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM AND THE BASHAN LAKE ASSOCIATION TO HAVE FLEXIBILITY IN WHEN AND HOW MUCH WATER WILL BE DRAWN DOWN AT BASHAN LAKE.

THESE DRAW DOWNS ARE CRITICAL TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO WALLS THAT PREVENT EROSION INTO THE LAKE AND FOR WEED CONTROL WHICH IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE ACCESSTO RECREATION AREAS, FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL SWIMMERS, TO PREVENT HAZARDOUS BOATING, AND TO PROTECT PROPERTY VALUES.

THE TOWN OF EAST HADDAM FOR DECADES WAS IN CONTROL OF OPENING AND CLOSING THE GATES TO THE DAM. RESIDENTS WORKED WITH THE TOWN TO COORDINATE THE PROCESS TO MAINTAIN THE HEALTH OF THE LAKE. PLEASE APPROVE THIS IMPORTANT BILL AND GIVE THE RESPONSIBILITY BACK TO THE TOWN.

SINCERELY,

DR. GREGORY EGNACZYK

ROBERTA EGNACZYK